

World Cup 2010 News Summary

June 15, 2010

A selection of World Cup 2010 highlights from the media

- KwaZulu-Natal Reaction Unit on 'High Alert' After Security Guards Protests
- Police Minister Warns Against Unlawful Activities During World Cup
- Union Threatens 'Wide-Scale' Action
- Soccer Fans 'Full of Praise' for Durban's Transport System at 13 Jun Game
- Bus Strike Leaves Fans Stranded at Soccer City
- Bus Drivers To Resume Work 15 Jun Following Agreement With Management
- Finance Minister Highlights Benefits From Hosting World Cup
- World Cup Fans' Spending Begins To Boost Firms' Earnings
- UK's Princes William, Harry To Attend World Cup as Part of Southern Africa Visit
- UN Secretary General 'Full of Praise' for RSA's World Cup
- Contingency Plans Found for Rea Vaya Bus Strike

KwaZulu-Natal Reaction Unit on 'High Alert' After Security Guards Protests -- SAfm radio reported on 14 June that the KwaZulu-Natal police reaction unit "is on high alert" to ensure that the security of matches at Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban "will not be compromised". The announcement follows a protest by security guards over wages at the end of the 13 June game between Germany and Australia. According to police spokesperson Phindile Radebe, a case of public violence has been opened and those accused of behaving unruly will be apprehended.

Police Minister Warns Against Unlawful Activities During World Cup -- BuaNews Online reported on 14 June that Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa issued a warning to criminals "who think they can terrorise ... visitors during the 2010 FIFA World Cup" that their actions will be met with "swift justice". Referring to the incident involving the armed robbery of three foreign journalists in Magaliesburg last week, Mthethwa said that the manner in which the investigation was conducted and finalized was proof that the police's warning to criminals "were not empty threats." National Police Commissioner General Bheki Cele applauded police and the National Prosecuting Authority for the speedy arrests, convictions and sentencing of the perpetrators. [AFP20100614590014 Website of the South African Government News Service published by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)]

Union Threatens 'Wide-Scale' Action -- Pretoria News Online reported on 15 June that security stewards at the Cape Town Stadium went on strike on 14 June on pay grievances, "briefly threatening" the Italy-Paraguay match. They were replaced by police officers and other security guards. The report also said that "in Durban, the stewards have threatened not to work on the public holiday tomorrow, unless they are guaranteed double pay. They were also expected to participate in a march protesting against poor South Africans being exploited during the World Cup." The SA Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu) has not ruled out a "wide-scale industrial action at stadiums and fan parks around the country to prevent security workers from being exploited during the tournament." The report quoted Satawu's national security coordinator as saying that security workers have been "ripped off" as the majority of security firms are offering their staff less money than they promised initially.

Soccer Fans 'Full of Paise' for Durban's Transport System at 13 Jun Game -- The Mercury Online reported on 14 June that "football fans ran out of superlatives last night to describe Durban's World Cup planning." Fans were particularly appreciative of the transport system. "Most fans, who had travelled to the stadium on buses and shuttles, were full of praise for the city's public transport system. They said they had only waited a couple of minutes to jump on to the shuttles," the paper report.

Bus Strike Leaves Fans Stranded at Soccer City – Radio 702 reported that "an illegal strike" by Bus Rapid Transport system drivers got under way at Soccer City stadium on 14 June. According to the report, the Rea Vaya bus drivers are unhappy because the city did not give them enough time to change their shifts to accommodate their schedules. The DA's [Democratic Alliance] Nico de Jagers said that the situation resulted in many fans being "stranded" at the stadium. While there were no major problems with the Park and Ride facilities and trains leaving the Nasrec station, spectators complained about the Rea Vaya buses, saying that "there aren't enough on the roads and most of them are full." [AFP20100614587006 Independent news website and leading provider of breaking news on current affairs, which evolved from the daily news service of media company Primedia's Radio 702 and 567 Cape Talk] Bus Drivers To Resume Work 15 Jun Following Agreement With Management – SAPA reported on 15 June that the striking Rea Vaya bus drivers "will go back to work on Tuesday following their 'illegal' strike that left hundreds of soccer fans stranded at Soccer City, Johannesburg on Monday." The report quoted the chief executive officer of Clidet, the company that manages Rea Vaya, as saying that "an agreement was reached which will see a return to work of drivers of both the ordinary commuter service and the 2010 event services this morning."

Finance Minister Highlights Benefits From Hosting World Cup -- The Mercury Online on 14 June published an article by South African Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, highlighting the perceived benefits of the world Cup. "South Africa has always viewed the hosting of the World Cup not as an end in itself, but as a catalyst for development whose benefits would be felt long after the referee blows the whistle marking the end of the last game. That's why the national government has spent almost R30 billion on transportation (roads, airports, and ports of entry)," the minister wrote, adding, "The additions we see to economic growth will also not be limited to this year alone, with spin-off benefits well into the future. What is certain is that the World Cup will be the best possible advertisement for South Africa and the region, showcasing the endless variety and opportunities on offer."

World Cup Fans' Spending Begins To Boost Firms' Earnings -- Business Day reported on 14 June that spending by foreign tourists and local citizens in the first few weeks of the FIFA World Cup has contributed significantly to the profits of businesses in the retailing and hospitality industries, "despite fears that the global recession would force consumers to be financially cautious". The Massmart group said that its consumer goods stores, such as Game and Makro, were in line to "score huge profits as a direct result of the tournament". According to the report, airports in host cities, particularly Johannesburg and Cape Town, had experienced a huge increase in the volume of passengers moving through the terminals, while hotels in host cities had been "very busy".

UK's Princes William, Harry To Attend World Cup as Part of Southern Africa Visit -- AFP reported on 14 June that Britain's Princes William and Harry are due to attend the World Cup in South Africa as part of a six-day joint tour of southern Africa. The princes will visit Botswana and Lesotho in support of their various charities before traveling to South Africa to attend England's second World Cup match, against Algeria, in Cape Town on 18 June.

UN Secretary General 'Full of Praise' for RSA's World Cup -- Cape Argus reported on 13 June that the United Nations [UN] secretary-general Ban Ki-moon "was full of praise" for the 11 June opening of the World Cup at Soccer City, which he attended along with 18 heads of state and other dignitaries. Ki-moon stated that the South African government and people "should be proud of what they have achieved" and expressed hope that the event would help other African countries achieve "some unity and reconciliation". He noted that his reason for attending the World Cup was because the UN regards sport as a "very important tool, not only for development," but also "for peace process-building and reconciliation."

Contingency Plans Found for Rea Vaya Bus Strike -- eNews on 15 June reported that contingency plans have been put in place to ensure spectators get to and from Ellis Park for tonight's match between Brazil and North Korea.